

Churches and Religion

Romania

11.

798 for their establishment was to be done by Order of the Cabinet.
659 No motivation was required if the Cabinet decided to repeal
a previously issued authorization.

Finally, the fight against sects (suspected of spying for the enemy) reached its climax by the Law No. 431 of July 9, 1943, which forbade the practice of religions other than the "historical denominations", specified by the Law No. 54 of 1928. The Government was empowered to suppress, by order of the Cabinet, the spreading of a specific sectarian cult and to expropriate its assets.

The further fate of all those laws and decrees is discussed infra.

128 A few words seem to be appropriate to explain the organization of material dealing with the status of individual churches. In the present part of the study devoted to the period before World War II, only the status of the Romanian Church, of the Roman Catholic Church and of the Greek Catholic (Uniate) Church is discussed.

The problem of the status of other religious groups acquired special significance only after World War II. Therefore, even the historical aspect of these denominations is treated in the third part of the present study dealing with the communist period (see infra III, 5).

795 2. Organization of the Romanian Orthodox Church
659

After World War I the unification and reorganization of the Romanian Orthodox Church became a stringent necessity because,